

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A secure communication method in which a security protocol is run below an application-level program to establish a secure communication channel for the transfer of application-level data between communicating parties; the security protocol operating by the passing of security-protocol protocol data units, PDUs, between the parties and including an initial secure key exchange handshake in which at least some of the key material is exchanged in security-protocol PDUs are passed between the parties operating the protocol in, this key material being used to provide at least one session key for encrypting application-level data passed between the parties as payload in security-protocol PDUs; the security-protocol PDUs taking the form of electronic documents formatted according to a self-describing markup language.
2. (currently amended) A security-protocol-exchange method according to claim 1, wherein said markup language is XML, at least one said electronic document being an XML document including a Document Type Declaration describing the PDU structure.
3. (currently amended) A networked device including a security entity logically positioned between an application program and a transport entity, the security entity being arranged to implement the method of claim 1 in respect of one said party and having[[:]] an associated generator and interpreter of documents expressing security-protocol PDUs in terms of a said self-describing markup language.
4. (original) A device according to claim 3, wherein said markup language is XML.
5. (original) A device according to claim 3, wherein the transport entity is arranged to transport the XML documents using HTTP.

6. (original) A device according to claim 3, wherein the transport entity is arranged to transport the XML documents in e-mails.